

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are presently pending in this application. Claims 1-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,457,066 to Mein et al. (hereinafter "Mein").

Claims 1-16 remain in this application.

Rejection of Claims 1, 6, 7, 11-13, 16 under § 102(e)

Applicant notes that independent claims 1, 6, 13 and 16 each contain at least one element of querying the SOAP software object to obtain status or response information. Similarly, independent claims 7, 11 and 12 as amended contain an element allowing for retrieving status or response information. The status and response information is available for retrieval by the client application:

"...Execute() returns and response and status information is available in the SOAP Request Object.

....

"When the Execute() method returns, it passes a success or failure code to the client-side application 36. **That application may then query various ISOAPRequest properties to read the values returned** from the server application 200 (in the case of a successful request) and **to access status information.**

"If Execute() returns a success code, then the ResponseElement property contains the contents of the Body element of the XML response sent by the server application 200. The contents of this property are server-dependent and the client-side application 36 should know in advance what to expect. If the SOAP request defines any out parameters (parameters whose values might be changed by the server application), then **the client-side application may query their new values** by using the ParameterValue property. The ResponseHeaders property returns the contents of the headers sent by the server application 200. Just as a client-side application 36 can send additional information about a request in the SOAP headers, the server application can return additional information in the headers.

....

"The status of the network protocol is available in the ResponseHTTPStatus (HTTP status code) and ResponseHTTPStatusText (text description of the HTTP status code) properties."

(Specification, p.9, ln. 23, – p.10, ln. 14, emphasis added.)

Thus, the claimed invention permits an active querying by the client application to retrieve status and response information. The retrieval of the status and response information is performed by the client application separately from the sending of the initial SOAP request to the remote server.

In contrast, Mein does not disclose such a separate, active retrieval of status and response information by the client application. Nothing in Mein teaches or suggests the client application actively querying to obtain status and response information. In fact, the system disclosed in Mein is incapable of handling such a querying mechanism as Applicant's, because Mein does not disclose a separate SOAP Request object containing the relevant properties to be queried. Mein uses the word "query" only in the section cited by the Examiner, and the usage there corresponds to a SOAP "request" (e.g., "a request for documents containing certain data") of a remote server; nothing in Mein suggests the client application making a call to retrieve information about the SOAP request itself. Instead, client applications under the system of Mein may only passively receive replies to their requests in accordance with the standard SOAP protocol. Applicant's claimed invention, however, permits such a deviation from the standard SOAP protocol because it includes a separate SOAP Request Object which can be accessed through an API.

Because Mein does not disclose a limitation of claims 1, 6, 7, 11-13 and 16, Applicant respectfully requests the allowance of these independent claims.

Rejection of Claims 2-5, 8-10, 14-15 under § 102(e)

As discussed above, Mein does not disclose retrieving response or status information about a SOAP request. As claims 2-5, 8-10 and 14-15 depend on independent base claims, they incorporate all the limitations of their respective base claims. Because some of those limitations are not found in the cited prior art, Applicant respectfully requests the allowance of these dependent claims.

Requirement for Information under 37 C.F.R. § 1.105

The Examiner has requested certain publications regarding the SOAP standard and the use of a non-standard API for SOAP. Regarding the SOAP standard, Applicants have enclosed the SOAP standard cited in the Background section. Regarding the use of a non-standard API for SOAP, Applicants respectfully note that the Background section does not cite or allude to a

In re Appln. of JAMES ET AL.
Application No. 09/606,923

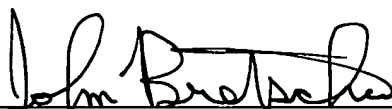
non-standard API to SOAP; instead, Applicants assert in the Background section that there is a "lack of a standard SOAP API". That is, prior to the invention, there did not exist any standardized API to the SOAP protocol, and that, as a result, "Each applications development group must individually code the interactions between its applications and the SOAP protocol." In other words, Applicants assert in the Background section that there was an *absence* of a standard API; Applicants have *not* asserted the existence of a non-standard API.

Nevertheless, Applicants have, with candor and good faith under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, attempted to obtain publications satisfying the Examiner's request, including a 1998 draft of the SOAP standard. Applicants cannot readily obtain these items, and therefore respectfully request this reply to be considered complete in fulfilling the Requirement for Information.

Conclusion

The application is considered in good and proper form for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



John T. Bretscher, Reg. No. 52,651
LEYDIG, VOIT & MAYER, LTD.
Two Prudential Plaza, Suite 4900
180 North Stetson Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60601-6780
(312) 616-5600 (telephone)
(312) 616-5700 (facsimile)

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